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CSTD: Topic #2 - Deepfakes, Disinformation, and Trust in the Digital Age

YUNMUN XXXVI

A major challenge facing our world today is the increasing prevalence of deepfakes and AI-generated disinformation. With artificial intelligence becoming more advanced, it is now possible to manipulate videos, images, and audio recordings to the extent that it is almost impossible to differentiate between what is real and what is fake. These technologies, once seen as fun or experimental, are now raising serious concerns. Deepfakes have been used to spread false information during elections, to undermine trust in established news sources, and to even put individuals in dangerous or humiliating situations.¹ As these tools become more widely available, the risk they pose to personal safety and public trust continues to grow.

As members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a subsidiary body of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), we serve as the UN's main body for science, technology, and innovation for development. Our role is to advise the UN General Assembly on science and technology issues by analyzing trends and providing policy recommendations to support sustainable development.²

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) must consider how the international community should respond to this growing problem. Should there be a global framework requiring AI-generated content to be labeled, and could this be feasibly enforced? Should countries share tools and technology to help detect deepfakes more effectively? While the ability for creativity and innovation must still be protected, there is a growing need to ensure that societies can trust the information they consume in the digital age.

¹ [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in Elections and Campaigns](#)

² [Commission on Science and Technology for Development | UN Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)

While researching your position papers, please consider the following:

- How has your country been affected by deepfakes and AI-driven disinformation? Have there been cases of fake news, election interference, or personal harm?
- What laws or regulations, if any, has your country passed to address deepfakes? Are they effective, or are stronger measures needed?
- Should the UN push for an international framework on AI content labeling and detection? If so, what should it look like, and who should enforce it?
- What role should technology companies and social media platforms play in preventing the spread of harmful deepfakes?
- How can governments balance protecting free expression and creativity with preventing disinformation and manipulation?

These prompts are only a starting point, and I encourage you to think broadly about the global implications of deepfakes. Remember, you are representing your country's stance on the issue, not your own personal views. All position papers must be submitted through Turnitin, and plagiarism and AI usage will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at bwinter1@mail.yu.edu. I look forward to reading your position papers and hearing your ideas on how the world should respond to this pressing issue at YUNMUN XXXVI.

All the best,

Benjamin Winters

Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development

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